

THE DAILY HERALD.

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NO. 47

Prison Reform in Holland.

Holland has made important strides in prison reform. She has taken a prominent position in the extension of the cellular system. It has been observed, in Holland as elsewhere, that even the diligent industry of prisoners, if carried on in close daily association with comrades in crime, is in great degree insufficient to prevent many of the worst results of corrupt communications, and at the same time lacks that influence, both penal and salutary, which total separation from wicked comrades can alone secure. A series of well-constructed, well-administered cellular prisons has been gradually introduced among the penal establishments. Since the first of this month there will be in use eleven of this description—seven larger and four smaller. The former will include the spacious and beautifully situated circular prison which, from its peculiar form, its huge dome, and its commanding position, is so conspicuous an object from the vicinity of the railway station at Arnhem, and which has already acquired the local popular designation of "The Panorama." It is an interesting and costly novelty in prison architecture. Another of the new cellular prisons, and which has already been in operation for about two years, is that of Groningen, which is cruciform in plan. Its cells, both ordinary and special, are unusually large, and must have cost such a sum of money for construction as either to indicate a wealthy nation or a Government and people peculiarly penetrated with the conviction of the penal and reformatory efficacy of rigidly separate imprisonment. Some of the Groningen cells for the use of single invalid prisoners and for culpable debtors (who are also, and with advantage, punished in Holland with separate confinement instead of in jovial association with others, as in English gaols) are twenty feet long, twelve feet high and ten feet in breadth. Such construction, with good masonry, implies indeed a liberal outlay for the object in view.

However, the practical effects and merits of penal separation have long but steadily been growing in favor with the Dutch people. They first made trial of one or two such establishments, as at Amsterdam and Utrecht, and have since gradually increased the number. They adopted two years ago a maximum period for cellular separation (as in English local gaols at present). Meanwhile they retained in the majority of prisons the old system of association, both in labor by day and in common sleeping rooms at night. This objectionable class of establishment will still continue to exist in some of the smaller towns of Holland, with their local gaols and lock-ups.—*London Times.*

Latest News Items.

The New York fund for the relief of Charleston now amounts to about \$30,000.

More than \$60,000 has been subscribed by Bostonians in aid of the Charleston sufferers.

The Catholics have built a school house for Indians at Stephen, D. T., at a cost of \$10,000.

The Central Pacific Road is building 200 fruit cars, of an improved pattern, for next season's traffic.

Mrs. Willis Wood of Dallas county, Mo., recently presented her liege lord with her twentieth baby.

Nearly three thousand cattle have been quarantined near Chicago on account of the existence of pleuro-pneumonia.

Pennsylvanians have leased 15,000 acres of lands near Chattanooga with full expectation of striking both gas and oil.

The supply of natural gas in the vicinity of Pittsburgh is said to have materially diminished since the recent earthquakes.

An Egyptian mummy on exhibition at the Iowa State Fair has been seized by a landlord in payment of the owner's board bill.

Mrs. General Grant has accepted an invitation to visit the battle field of Belmont, with the Union veterans of Southern Illinois, Kentucky and Missouri.

The Washington correspondent of the New York World says that the names of seventeen sons of United States Senators and of sixty-seven sons of Representatives are borne upon the Government pay rolls.

The largest pension ever paid in the United States was paid September 16th at Louisville, Ky., to Marcus D. Richards for total blindness, brought on by an injury received in the war in 1863. The pension amounted to \$11,500.

The Gothamites are economizing this fall. Real estate men say there is an unusual demand for middle-class dwelling and apartment houses. High-priced houses cannot be let, even at reduced prices. The demand is for \$1,000 and \$1,500 rents.

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